

**What is claimed is:**

1. An improved action in a firearm having a grip, a receiver, a forwardly extending barrel and a trigger assembly, the improvement comprising:
  - (a) a frame;
  - (b) a hammer pivotably coupled to said frame;
  - (c) a carriage;
  - (d) means provided on said carriage for releasably engaging said hammer when said carriage is pivoted in a first direction and for releasing said hammer when said carriage is pivoted in a second direction, wherein said first direction is substantially opposite said second direction; and
  - (e) means for pivotably coupling said carriage to said frame in a manner which allows said carriage to disengage from said frame upon pivoting the carriage a predetermined angle in relation to said frame.
2. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 1, further comprising a firing pin coupled to said carriage.
3. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 1, further comprising means for preventing said carriage from pivoting said predetermined angle relative to said receiver.
4. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 1, further comprising means for engaging said hammer against pivoting relative to said receiver when said carriage is pivoted in said second direction.
5. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 1, wherein said carriage is provided with an ignition system holder

6. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 5, further comprising a shield rigidly coupled to said frame over said ignition system when said ignition system is in battery.

7. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 6, wherein said frame is provided with an opening greater than one square centimeter in size.

8. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 3, further comprising a catch coupled to said carriage, wherein said preventing means comprises:

- (a) a keeper;
- (b) a tab coupled to said keeper; and
- (c) wherein said preventing means is pivotable between a first position in which said keeper contains said catch in a manner which prevents said carriage from pivoting through said predetermined angle relative to said frame, and a second position in which said keeper allows said carriage to pivot through said predetermined angle relative to said frame.

9. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 1, further comprising a sear pivotably engagable with said hammer.

10. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 9, wherein said sear is positioned substantially within said carriage.

11. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 9, wherein said sear is pivotably coupled to said frame at a position which is over one centimeter relative to a point at which said sear engages said hammer.

12. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 9, wherein said hammer pivots about an axis and wherein said sear is pivotably coupled to said frame at a first point which is further from said axis than a second point at which said sear engages said hammer.

13. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 12, wherein said hammer comprises a shaft and a striker and wherein said striker has a head having a top, wherein said first point and said second point are located closer to said axis than said top of said head of said striker.

14. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 1, wherein said carriage pivots on a first axis, and wherein said hammer pivots on a second axis, wherein said first axis is different than said second axis.

15. An improved action in a firearm having a grip, a receiver, a forwardly extending barrel and a trigger assembly, the improvement comprising:

- (a) a receiver;
- (b) a carriage coupled for pivotable movement within said receiver;
- (c) a hammer coupled for pivotable movement within said carriage;
- (d) a handle coupled to said carriage;
- (e) means for allowing said carriage to be removed from said receiver upon pivoting said carriage a predetermined angle relative to said receiver; and
- (f) means provided on said carriage for engaging and pivoting said hammer in a first direction upon pivoting said carriage in said first direction.

16. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 15, further comprising a firing pin coupled to said carriage.

17. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 16, wherein said firing pin is secured to said hammer.

18. A firearm comprising:

- (a) a grip,
- (b) a receiver,

- (c) a forwardly extending barrel,
- (d) and an action comprising:
  - (i) a receiver;
  - (ii) a carriage pivotable within said receiver about a first axis;
  - (iii) a hammer pivotable about a second axis;
  - (iv) a catch pivotably moveable between a first position and a second position; and
  - (v) means coupled to said carriage for allowing said carriage to be removed from said receiver when said catch is in said first position and for preventing said carriage from being removed from said receiver when said catch is in said second position.

19. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 18, wherein said carriage pivots on a first axis, and wherein said hammer pivots on a second axis, wherein said first axis is different than said second axis.

20. The improved action in a firearm of Claim 18 further comprising means provided on said carriage for releasably engaging said hammer when said carriage is pivoted in a first direction and for releasing said hammer when said carriage is pivoted in a second direction, wherein said first direction is substantially opposite said second direction.